

Application No. 10/537,267
Attorney Docket No. 4005/0259PUS1
Response to Office Action dated 1 May 2008
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 and 6 are now present in this application.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended and claims 2-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed simultaneously herewith. Consideration of the documents cited therein is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmitz, et al, US Patent 6,469,500. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lequesne, US Patent 4,779,582. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claim 4 to contain allowable subject matter. Because the limitations of claim 4 and its intervening claims have been incorporated into claim 1, all claims should now be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully

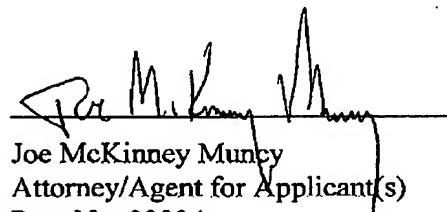
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requested that the Examiner telephone Joe McKinney Muncy, Applicants' Attorney, at 703.621.7140 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3828 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; in particular, extension of time fees.

Date: November 3, 2008 (Monday)

Respectfully submitted,



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